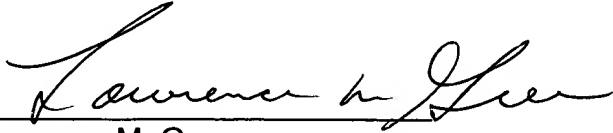


It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the application are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable consideration is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

3. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [either] claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein the access control data includes operator control unit identification data, operator identification data and access controller identification data.

5. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4] wherein the identity structure is encrypted and can only be deciphered by selected access controllers and the central control means.

8. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

9. (Amended) A remote access control system as claimed in [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

11. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein [the or] each access controller includes recordal means adapted to record data relating to the conditions or circumstances of its associated value unit.

13. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [either] claim 11 [or claim 12] wherein the data recorded is transferred to the central control means, via the virtual configuration link.

14. (Amended) A remote access control system according to [any one of the preceding] claim[s] 1 wherein [the or] each access controller includes a locking mechanism and an electronic control device.

18. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claims 15 [to 17] wherein the first communication means includes a wide area communications network.

19. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 18] wherein the second communication means includes a wide area communications network.

20. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 18] wherein the second communication means includes a local communications link.